

# News from the FPPC



California Fair Political Practices Commission  
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## Over \$8 Million Spent on Independent Expenditures Benefiting Candidates in the November Election

With six days to go before the general election, special interests have spent more than \$8.5 million on “independent expenditures” in six legislative contests, according to the California Fair Political Practices Commission. Combined with the nearly \$12 million spent in the June primary, “independent expenditure” spending for the year totals more than \$20 million.

Moreover, each of the top six legislative races have involved more than \$1 million in “independent expenditures” so far in the general election campaign.

The 19<sup>th</sup> Senate District in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties is number one in “independent expenditures,” with a total of \$1,764,347 being spent as of today. Of that amount, \$1,129,885 has been spent so far to help elect Tony Strickland (R) and \$634,462 to help elect Hannah-Beth Jackson (D).

The 15<sup>th</sup> Assembly District in Contra Costa County is number two with \$1,534,927 in “independent expenditures” as of today. Of that amount, \$1,149,816 has been spent so far to help elect Joan Buchanan (D) and \$385,111 to help elect Abram Wilson (R).

“While state candidates must adhere to contribution limits, ‘independent expenditure’ committees can raise and spend unlimited amounts,” commented Ross Johnson, Chairman of the Fair Political Practices Commission. “Special interests are able to circumvent the limits on direct contributions by making unlimited ‘independent expenditures’ supporting their favored candidates.”

Since limits on the size of direct contributions to candidates took effect in 2001, special interests have pumped more than \$108 million in “independent expenditures” into statewide and legislative campaigns.

Four other legislative campaigns have received significant “independent expenditures:”

- Assembly District 78 in San Diego County: \$1,513,053, with \$1,058,805 spent to help elect John McCann (R) and \$454,248 to help elect Marty Block (D).
- Assembly District 80 in Riverside and Imperial Counties: \$1,348,833, with \$1,168,748 spent to help elect Manuel Perez (D) and \$180,085 to help elect Gary Jeandron (R).
- Assembly District 10 in Sacramento and San Joaquin Counties: \$1,168,262, with \$1,118,590 spent to help elect Alyson Huber (D) and \$49,672 to help elect Jack Sieglock (R).

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- Assembly District 30 in the Central Valley: \$1,142,314, with \$575,607 to help elect Fran Florez (D) and \$566,707 to help elect Danny Gilmore (R).

Opportunity PAC, which is primarily funded by labor unions, tops the list of “independent expenditure” committees, raising \$1.9 million and spending almost \$1.5 million in three legislative contests – Assembly Districts 10, 15 and 80. Californians for Jobs and Education, which is primarily funded by the California Chamber of Commerce, has raised more than \$1.25 million and spent a little over \$900,000 in the 19<sup>th</sup> Senate District and the 15<sup>th</sup> Assembly District.

The FPPC provides daily updates to “independent expenditure” spending on its website:  
[www.fppc.ca.gov](http://www.fppc.ca.gov).

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